

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney District of New Jersey

970 Broad Street, Suite 700 Newark, NJ 07102

973/645-2700

July 13, 2011

Joshua L. Dratel, Esq. Joshua L. Dratel, P.C. 2 Wall Street Third Floor New York, New York 10005

Re: Plea Agreement with Sarfraz Choudhary, a/k/a Muhammad Yagoob

11-ER-672-01 (ccc)

Dear Mr. Dratel:

This letter sets forth the plea agreement between your client, Sarfraz Choudhary, a/k/a Muhammad Yaqoob ("Sarfraz Choudhary"), and the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey ("this Office").

<u>Charge</u>

Conditioned on the understandings specified below, this Office will accept a guilty plea from Sarfraz Choudhary to a onecount information, which charges him which charges him procuring his naturalization contrary to law, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1425(a). If Sarfraz Choudhary enters a guilty plea and is sentenced on this charge, and otherwise fully complies with all of the terms of this agreement, this Office will not initiate any further criminal charges against Sarfraz Choudhary concerning his procurement of his naturalization contrary to law. However, in the event that a guilty plea in this matter is not entered for any reason or the judgment of conviction entered as a result of this guilty plea does not remain in full force and effect, defendant agrees that any dismissed charges and any other charges that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date this agreement is signed by Sarfraz Choudhary may be commenced against him, notwithstanding the expiration of the limitations period after Sarfraz Choudhary signs the agreement.

Sentencing

The violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1425 to which Sarfraz Choudhary agrees to plead guilty carries a statutory maximum

prison sentence of 10 years and a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain that any persons derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense. Fines imposed by the sentencing judge may be subject to the payment of interest.

The sentence to be imposed upon Sarfraz Choudhary is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge, subject to the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3551-3742, and the sentencing judge's consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. The United States Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory. The sentencing judge may impose any reasonable sentence up to and including the statutory maximum term of imprisonment and the maximum statutory fine. This Office cannot and does not make any representation or promise as to what guideline range may be found by the sentencing judge, or as to what sentence Sarfraz Choudhary ultimately will receive.

Further, in addition to imposing any other penalty on Sarfraz Choudhary, the sentencing judge: (1) will order Sarfraz Choudhary to pay an assessment of \$100; (2) shall, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1451(e), revoke, set aside, and declare void the final order admitting Sarfraz Choudhary under the name Muhammad Yagoob to citizenship, and shall declare the certificate of naturalization of Muhammad Yaqoob to be canceled; and (3) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583 require Sarfraz Choudhary to serve a term of supervised release of not more than three years, which will begin at the expiration of any term of imprisonment imposed. Should Sarfraz Choudhary be placed on a term of supervised release and subsequently violate any of the conditions of supervised release before the expiration of its term, Sarfraz Choudhary may be sentenced to not more than two years' imprisonment in addition to any prison term previously imposed, regardless of the statutory maximum term of imprisonment set forth above and without credit for time previously served on post-release supervision, and may be sentenced to an additional term of supervised release.

Rights of This Office Regarding Sentencing

Except as otherwise provided in this agreement, this Office reserves its right to take any position with respect to the appropriate sentence to be imposed on Sarfraz Choudhary by the sentencing judge, to correct any misstatements relating to the sentencing proceedings, and to provide the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office all law and information

relevant to sentencing, favorable or otherwise. In addition, this Office may inform the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office of: (1) this agreement; and (2) the full nature and extent of Sarfraz Choudhary's activities and relevant conduct with respect to this case.

<u>Stipulations</u>

This Office and Sarfraz Choudhary agree to stipulate at sentencing to the statements set forth in the attached Schedule A, which hereby is made a part of this plea agreement. agreement to stipulate, however, cannot and does not bind the sentencing judge, who may make independent factual findings and may reject any or all of the stipulations entered into by the parties. To the extent that the parties do not stipulate to a particular fact or legal conclusion, each reserves the right to argue the existence of and the effect of any such fact or conclusion upon the sentence. Moreover, this agreement to stipulate on the part of this Office is based on the information and evidence that this Office possesses as of the date of this Thus, if this Office obtains or receives additional agreement. evidence or information prior to sentencing that it determines to be credible and to be materially in conflict with any stipulation in the attached Schedule A, this Office shall not be bound by any such stipulation. A determination that any stipulation is not binding shall not release either this Office or Sarfraz Choudhary from any other portion of this agreement, including any other stipulation. If the sentencing court rejects a stipulation, both parties reserve the right to argue on appeal or at postsentencing proceedings that the sentencing court was within its discretion and authority to do so. These stipulations do not restrict the Government's right to respond to questions from the Court and to correct misinformation that has been provided to the Court.

Waiver of Appeal and Post-Sentencing Rights

As set forth in Schedule A, this Office and Sarfraz Choudhary waive certain rights to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion after sentencing, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

Immigration Consequences

The defendant understands that, if he is not a citizen of the United States, his guilty plea to the charged offense will likely result in his being subject to immigration proceedings and

removed from the United States by making him deportable, excludable, or inadmissible, or ending his naturalization. defendant understands that the immigration consequences of this plea will be imposed in a separate proceeding before the immigration authorities. The defendant wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offense regardless of any immigration consequences of this plea, even if this plea will cause his removal from the United States. The defendant understands that he is bound by his guilty plea regardless of any immigration consequences of the plea. Accordingly, the defendant waives any and all challenges to his guilty plea and to his sentence based on any immigration consequences, and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty plea, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty plea, conviction, or sentence, based on any immigration consequences of his guilty plea.

Other Provisions

This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and cannot bind other federal, state, or local authorities. However, this Office will bring this agreement to the attention of other prosecuting offices, if requested to do so.

This agreement was reached without regard to any civil or administrative matters that may be pending or commenced in the future against Sarfraz Choudhary. This agreement does not prohibit the United States, any agency thereof (including the Internal Revenue Service), or any third party from initiating or prosecuting any civil or administrative proceeding against Sarfraz Choudhary.

No Other Promises

This agreement constitutes the plea agreement between Sarfraz Choudhary and this Office and supersedes any previous agreements between them. No additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties.

Very truly yours,

PAUL J. FISHMAN

United States Attorney

By: Andrew Kogan

Assistant U.S. Attorney

APPROVED:

Michael A. Hammer, Jr.

Unit Chief, National Security Unit

I have received this letter from my attorney, Joshua L. Dratel, Esq. I have read it. My attorney and I have discussed it and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charge, sentencing, stipulations, waiver, forfeiture, and immigration consequences. I understand this letter fully. I hereby accept its terms and conditions and acknowledge that it constitutes the plea agreement between the parties. I understand that no additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties. I want to plead guilty pursuant to this plea agreement.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

Sarfraz Choudhary

Date: 10/6/11

I have discussed with my client this plea agreement and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charge(s), sentencing, stipulations, waiver, forfeiture, and immigration consequences. My client understands this plea agreement fully and wants to plead guilty pursuant to it.

Joshua L. Dratel Esq.

Date: 10/6/11

Plea Agreement With Sarfraz Choudhary

Schedule A

- 1. This Office and Sarfraz Choudhary recognize that the United States Sentencing Guidelines are not binding upon the Court. This Office and Sarfraz Choudhary nevertheless agree to the stipulations set forth herein, and agree that the Court should sentence Sarfraz Choudhary within the Guidelines range that results from the total Guidelines offense level set forth below. This Office and Sarfraz Choudhary further agree that neither party will argue for the imposition of a sentence outside the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level.
- 2. The version of the United States Sentencing Guidelines effective November 1, 2010 applies in this case. The applicable guideline is U.S.S.G. § 2L2.2. This guideline carries a Base Offense Level of 8.
- 3. The defendant fraudulently obtained and used a United States passport. Therefore, specific Offense Characteristic § 2L2.2 (b) (3) applies. This Specific Offense Characteristic results in an increase of 4 levels.
- 4. As of the date of this letter, Sarfraz Choudhary has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the offense charged. Therefore, a downward adjustment of 2 levels for acceptance of responsibility is appropriate if Sarfraz Choudhary's acceptance of responsibility continues through the date of sentencing. See U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a).
- 5. In accordance with the above, the parties agree that the total Guidelines offense level applicable to Sarfraz Choudhary is 10 (the "agreed total Guidelines offense level").
- 6. The parties agree not to seek or argue for any upward or downward departure, adjustment or variance not set forth herein. The parties further agree that a sentence within the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level of 10 is reasonable.
- 7. Sarfraz Choudhary knows that he has and, except as noted below in this paragraph, voluntarily waives, the right to file any appeal, any collateral attack, or any other writ or motion, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, which challenges the

sentence imposed by the sentencing court if that sentence falls within or below the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level of 10. This Office will not file any appeal, motion or writ which challenges the sentence imposed by the sentencing court if that sentence falls within or above the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level of 10. The parties reserve any right they may have under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal the sentencing court's determination of the criminal history category. The provisions of this paragraph are binding on the parties even if the Court employs a Guidelines analysis different from that stipulated to herein. Furthermore, if the sentencing court accepts a stipulation, both parties waive the right to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that the sentencing court erred in doing so.

8. Both parties reserve the right to oppose or move to dismiss any appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion barred by the preceding paragraph and to file or to oppose any appeal, collateral attack, writ or motion not barred by the preceding paragraph.